LIBRARY

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SOCIETY OF MEDICINE LIBRARY

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year 1944

to which is

appended the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

L. G. Anderson, M.D. Liverp., Ch.B., D.P.H. Liverp.

(Now serving with The Royal Air Force.)

Temporary Medical Officer of Health:

Irene B. M. Green, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector:

H. E. Gilby, F S.I., Cert. S.I.B., M. Inst. M. & Cy. E.

Cert. R.S.I. as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Assistants to Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

G. H. S. Jones.

(Now Serving with the Fleet Air Arm.)

L. H. Doughty.

(Now serving with H. M. Forces.)

Temporary Shorthand-Typist:

Miss E. M. Waterson.

Clerk to Medical Officer of Health:

D. Hunn.

(Now serving with the Royal Navy.)

The Lancaster Press, Ltd., Printers, Fakenham.

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
Year ending 31st December, 1944.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1944.

Vital Statistics.

There were 336 live births, 33 of which were illegitimate, and 4 still births, registered in 1944. The birth rate has gone up to 19.2. and is above the national figure of 17.6.

There were 234 deaths registered during the year giving a crude death rate of 13.44, the national rate being 11.6, 66% of these deaths occurred at ages over 65. The main causes of death were heart disease, cancer and cerebral haemorrhage. The deaths from Cancer were only half the number registered in 1943.

There were only 6 deaths of infants under one year, one less than last year. As there were many more births in 1944 the infant mortality rate was reduced to the low figure of 20.83 compared with 46 for England and Wales. This constitutes a record for the district and reflects great credit on all those concerned with infant welfare, mothers, doctors and nurses. Of these infants 4 died in the first 4 weeks of life and in only 3 cases could the cause be described as avoidable, the others being due to prematurity or other conditions present at birth.

Infectious Disease.

There was a further increase in the number of cases of notifiable infectious disease during the year, again mainly accounted for by the increased incidence of Scarlet Fever. Out of a total of 82 notifications, excluding Measles and Whooping Cough, 59 referred to Scarlet Fever. Two thirds of these occurred in the Autumn, in 3 small epidemics of about a dozen cases each at Briston, Fakenham and Walsingham. The rest of the cases were scattered throughout the district during the Spring and early Summer.

The disease was mild in type and few complications were reported. The three epidemics were dealt with by routine swabbing of school contacts and the subsequent exclusion from school of all those found to be carrying haemolytic streptococci. The carriers were swabbed again until negative results were obtained when they were allowed to return to school.

It was felt that these measures did have some effect in cutting short the epidemics, although it is impossible to offer proof of this.

No case of diphtheria was notified in the district during the year.

Five of the cases of dysentery were mentioned in the 1943 annual report, when the small epidemic at Ryburgh due to the shiga type of bacillus was described in some detail. No further cases of this type occurred during 1944.

Two points of general interest may be noted with regard to these figures; firstly, that nearly half the cases occurred in the 5—10 age group which covers the first 5 years of school attendance; and secondly, the small effect upon the incidence of infectious disease which was made by the further large influx of town children under the Government Evacuation Scheme.

There were more cases of Measles and Whooping Cough than in 1943, a moderate increase in the cases of Measles but a large increase of Whooping Cough. There were no deaths from either cause.

In spite of this increase there were fewer cases of Pneumonia, one of the commonest complications of both diseases, suggesting that both were mild in type.

Tuberculosis.

There were 23 new cases of Tuberculosis notified in 1944, compared with 26 in 1943. Of these, 17 were pulmonary in type, 14 cases being male patients.

There were 11 deaths during the year, one less than in 1943, and 9 of these were male pulmonary cases.

At the end of December, there were 134 cases on the register, a decrease of 6 on the previous year.

One striking feature of these figures is the preponderance of new cases of male pulmonary type in the 35—45 age group and the fact that the majority of deaths occurred in the same group.

It suggests that the prolonged stress of wartime duties additional to full time work has exacted a toll on the health of the men in their third or fourth decades. It is possible that other deleterious effects on men of this age group may appear later and be present already in forms not apparent in available statistics.

Diphtheria Immunisation Scheme.

During the year 112 children under school age and 51 school children were immunised under the Council's scheme. It is not possible to estimate how many were treated by private arrangement with their own doctors.

It was estimated that at the end of the year the following percentages of children had been immunised at some time;—

Age 1-5 years	Age 5-15 years
63%	87%

The school figures continue to keep at high level but the pre-school group are still not as fully protected as would be desirable.

The position cannot be considered satisfactory until at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the young children are immunised, preferably on or near their first birthday.

I should like to acknowledge here the continued help that I have received from the Head Teachers and District Nurses without whose assistance the figures would not be nearly so satisfactory.

The fact that there have been no cases of diphtheria during the year in spite of the reception of large numbers of evacuated children strongly emphasises the value of the protection afforded by immunisation.

Contagious Disease and Infestation by Vermin.

152 cases of Scabies were brought to my notice during the year by general practitioners and School nurses. All were dealt with by the issue of benzyl benzoate lotion and instructions for its use in the patient's own home. In most cases cure was rapid and complete and no case had to be admitted for In-patient treatment during the year.

Head infestation with vermin is brought to my notice by the county authorities following the cleanliness surveys of schools which are regularly made by the school nurses. These cases are not numerous, but some are severe and of long standing. In most of these bad cases there must be a residual infection in the household amongst the adults, or children under school age.

The Scabies Order 1941 gives the Medical Officer of Health power to examine all the members of the infested household and to require persons found to be infested to present themselves for cleansing at a recognised station.

Unfortunately, in a small rural district there is no nursing staff nor are there suitable premises for use as cleansing stations. It would not be economic to set up separate stations for each district. Under the Education Act 1944, it is a duty of the Education Authority to set up cleansing stations and it would be very useful if these could be put at the disposal of smaller County Authorities for the treatment of the relatively few cases for which at present no machinery exists.

Water Supplies.

Full particulars of the present position with regard to the water supplies of the district are given in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

In general terms, the position cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Apart from the two largest centres of population, Fakenham and Melton Constable and the private provision made by the owners of the larger houses, water is mainly obtained from shallow wells in the chalk These wells are very liable to pollution particularly where sewage disposal is by means of soakaways in close proximity to them. During the year a full survey has been made by the Council's Consulting Engineers who have presented a detailed report. If and when these or similar proposals are put into operation it is anticipated that the entire district will have a piped supply adequate in quality and quantity.

This will be one of the greatest single public health measures ever designed for the benefit of the district.

General Survey.

The health of the district continues to be good. The birth-rate has risen, the death rate has fallen and the infant mortality rate has reached a record low figure.

Apart from the increase in new cases of the male pulmonary type already mentioned there has been less tuberculosis, and except for the increased incidence of scarlet fever which has been prevalent in most districts, there has been very little infectious disease.

The Housing situation gives most grounds for anxiety and it is difficult to see how these standards of health can be maintained with the present scarcity of suitable dwellings and the increasing degree of overcrowding of those that exist. Life in an overcrowded house is bad for all the occupants particularly dangerous to the health of infants and young children, who require more and not less air space than adults. It is earnestly hoped that nothing will be allowed to delay the early completion of the Council's re-housing programme.

In conclusion, I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the continued helpful co-operation I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the staff.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE B. M. GREEN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

Area (in acres)	88,818
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population	17,410
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1944) according to rate-books	6,404
Rateable Value (end of 1944)	£67,670
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£285

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR,

which relate to the net births and deaths after correction for inward and outward transfers as furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.	Total.	Males.	Females.		Wals.	E. & W.
Legitimate	303	160	143	Birth-rate per 1000 of estimated resident population	19.2	17.6
Illegitimate	33	19	14			
Total	336	179	157			
Still Births						
Legitimate	4	2	2	Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...	0.23	0.5
Illegitimate	—	—	—			
Total	4	2	2			
Deaths Total	234	142	92	Crude Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	13.44	11.6

Deaths from puerperal causes:—0.

Infant Deaths.

	Totals.	Males.	Females.
Legitimate ...	6	4	2
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
Totals	7	4	3

	Wals.	E. & W.
Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	20.83	46

Ages at Death.

Age.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1st day	1	—	1
1—4 weeks	2	1	3
6—12 months	1	1	2
Totals ...	4	2	6

(E. & W. = England and Wales).

The causes of death are given in following table supplied by the Registrar-General:—

	Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
	All Causes...	142	92
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—
2	Measles	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—
4	Whooping Cough...	—	—
5	Diphtheria	—	—
6	Influenza	2	2
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
8	Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	10	3
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases...	1	—
11	Syphilis	—	—
12	General Paralysis of the Insane	—	—
13	Cancer	8	14
14	Diabetes	—	4
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	16	5
16	Heart Disease	41	36
17	Aneurysm	—	—
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	5	—
19	Bronchitis	8	3
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	3	1
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	5	—
22	Peptic Ulcer	1	—
23	Diarrhœa, etc. (under two years)	—	—
24	Appendicitis	—	—
25	Cirrhosis of the Liver...	—	—
26	Other Diseases of the Liver...	—	—
27	Other Digestive Diseases	3	2
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	6	3
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
30	Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—
31	Congenital Debility, Prematurity, Malformations, etc.	1	2
32	Senility	—	—
33	Suicide	3	—
34	Other Violence	6	6
35	Other Defined Diseases	22	11
36	Causes Ill-defined or Unknown		

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis).

The incidence of notifiable disease during the year is shown in the two subjoined tables the first table sets out the total notifications, whilst the second shows the distribution according to age.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	59	26	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	6	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
Erysipelas	10	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	1	—
Dysentery	6	6	—
Totals	82	33	—

Disease.	Under One Year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—	Total Cases
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	5	4	3	33	7	1	4	2	—	—	59
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	6
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	3	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	1	—	—	6
Totals	1	1	5	4	3	38	8	1	5	8	5	3	82

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH REGULATIONS.

The following notifications have been received:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
Measles	116	—
Whooping Cough ...	102	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

Particulars of the new cases of Tuberculosis, deaths from the disease, and the total number of cases in the area during 1944 are given in the following tables.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
15—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
35—	9	1	—	—	4	—	—	—
45—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 upwards	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals	14	3	2	3	9	2	—	—

Type of Case	Males	Females	Total
Respiratory	47	28	75
Non-Respiratory	31	28	59
Totals	78	56	134

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES TABLES.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
FACTORIES			
with mechanical power ...	4	3	—
without mechanical power ...	4	2	—
WORKPLACES	—	—	—
Total	8	5	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of floors ...	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Acommodation (insufficient	2	1	—	—
Sanitary Acommodation (unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Sanitary Acommodation (not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouse	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses	—	—	—	—
Other Offences	1	1	—	—
Total	5	4	—	—

WALSINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year 1944.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Sixth Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1944. This is presented in abbreviated form.

The following table shows the number of inspections made for all purposes during the year:—

Nature of Inspection.	No. of Visits
Housing Inspections	23
Housing Re-visits	176
Inspections in connection with the Housing (Rural Workers) Act	5
Public Health Inspections	561
Public Health Revisits	647
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	329
Inspections of Slaughterhouses and Foodshops	55
Inspections of Sewers, Sewer Ditches, Sewage Works, etc.	347
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Arrangements	125
Investigations respecting Infectious and Contagious Disease	169
Rooms disinfected	67
Inspections of Public Conveniences	24
Inspections of Factories and Workshops	8
Inspections of Petroleum Stores	7
Miscellaneous visits to owners, etc.	296

Emergency Work.

Inspections in connection with the Civilian Deaths Scheme	2
Inspections in connection with the Government Evacuation Scheme	197
Inspections in connection with the Salvage Scheme	29
Visits in connection with Gas Contaminated Foodstuffs	39
Visits in connection with British Restaurant	34
TOTAL	3,140

Housing and Public Health.

The survey of drainage arrangements in the Parish of Fakenham was continued during the year 355 further premises were inspected and street numbers allocated. A total of 843 premises having been inspected for this purpose. Enquiry was made as to the practicability of a closet conversion scheme but the matter had to be deferred until a more favourable opportunity presents itself.

Dnring the year a total of 127 letters were sent requesting attention to various matters at 363 premises, including the above, and two Statutory Notices were served respecting unsatisfactory water supplies at eight dwellinghouses.

In both cases the owner defaulted in carrying out the works and these were subsequently carried out by the Council, in one instance costs were recovered without legal proceedings whilst in the other case this aspect remained outstanding at the end of the year.

The following table summarises works carried out as a result of this action. No legal proceedings were necessary :—

	Number
Windows repaired or made to open	11
Floors repaired or relaid	6
Plaster to walls or ceilings repaired	5
Stairs and doors repaired	7
Dampness remedied	3
Walls repaired	2
Overcrowding abated	1
Houses demolished	2
Firegrates and coppers repaired	11
House roofs repaired	6
Accumulations of refuse removed	5
Outbuildings repaired	3
Sanitary conveniences repaired or reconstructed	7
E.C.'s converted to W.C.'s	29
Lavatory basins provided and fixed	2
Chimneys repaired	4
Pumps repaired	2
Rooms disinfested	4
Sanitary pails provided	4
Rainwater guttering and fallpipes repaired or renewed	4
Wells cleaned or repaired	3
Drains unstopped, trapped or repaired	26
New ashbins provided	20
Ditches cleansed	15
Miscellaneous items dealt with	3

CERTIFICATES OF ESSENTIALITY—CIRCULAR 2871.

In order that work should as far as possible be concentrated upon essential matters designed to provide additional or improved housing accommodation the Ministry of Health instituted a priority system dependent upon the issue of Certificates of Essentiality.

Several applications were received and Certificates were granted in respect of works to 11 dwellings involving an estimated expenditure of £2,522.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal proceedings were instituted against one owner for permitting the illegal occupation of a dwellinghouse which is the subject of a demolition order. The case was proved but only a nominal penalty was imposed, the defendant being fined 5s.

Housing Acts—Regulation 68a of the Emergency Powers (Defence) General Regulations.

Temporary licences have been granted permitting the occupation of 6 condemned dwellinghouses.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

During the year 329 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies, at four premises extensive alterations were made to existing buildings whilst there were slight structural improvements in a number of other premises.

This important aspect of public health work has unfortunately received less attention than in previous years, a state of affairs which is a direct result of the inadequacy of staff to carry out the work.

The following table summarises the entries in the Council's registers at the end of the year :—

Wholesale Producers	...	143
Retail Purveyors	...	99
Dairymen	...	6

5 Retailers of milk residing elsewhere are registered for the purpose of retailing milk within the district.

Biological Sampling Scheme.

5 Samples of milk were taken from producers of ungraded milk. All were negative to the presence of the tubercle bacillus.

Graded Milk.

The number of producers holding licences to produce "Accredited" milk was 40 whilst 7 producers held licences to produce "Tuberculin Tested" Milk.

88 Samples of milk were taken from "Accredited" producers premises and 20 of these failed to pass the prescribed test. The average number of samples taken per producer was 2.2.

79 Samples of milk for biological examination for Tuberculosis were also taken from these herds. All were negative.

Slaughterhouses and Foodshops.

55 Inspections of slaughterhouses and foodshops were made, and the following carcases were examined :—

Oxen 6. Calves 7. Sheep 40. Pigs 28.

The following were found to be diseased or otherwise unsound and were disposed of so as not to be used for the food of man :—

Beef		2 ox carcases and all offal, 2 forequarters and all offal, 1 pair of kidneys, 1 head and tongue, 1 liver, 12 lbs. beef.
Pork		1 Pig's carcase and all offal, 6 Pig's heads, 4 mesenteric fats.
Mutton		Portions of 9 carcases (272 lbs.)
Tinned or Bottled Foods	...	37 tins meat, 262 tins milk, 5 tins soup, 28 tins vegetables, 191 tins fish, 11 tins fruit,
Other Foods	...	79 lbs. bacon, 193 lbs. butter, 14 lbs. cheese. 56 lbs. fish, 6 lbs. tea, 29 lbs. of rice 270 lbs. rolled oats, 11 lbs. oranges. 56 lbs. dried fruit.

Total weight of foodstuffs above mentioned 1 ton. 3 cwts. 92 lbs.

Treatment of Foodstuffs Contaminated by Poison Gas.

A programme of spring and summer training including lectures, practical demonstrations, and exercises was carried out by the squad, the members of which showed keen interest in the work. Arrangements were made to widen the scope of the lectures so that the squad could if necessary undertake general decontamination work.

Sewerage and Drainage, etc.

SHALLOW SEWERS.

Further attention has been given to the recurrent blockages in the shallow sewers at Hempton, Tatterford, West Raynham, Great Walsingham and Little Walsingham, and minor works of improvement such as the provision of access manholes were made where possible.

A survey of existing conditions as to drainage was made by Messrs. A. P. I. Cotterell & Sons, the Council's Consulting Engineers, and a report on proposals for the provision of main drainage wherever possible was presented to the Council during the year.

The scheme envisages stage development of main drainage systems dealing with the large parishes first, and continuing to the lesser centres of population until a large percentage of the district has this service available. It is to be hoped that Government grants will be forthcoming sufficient to see that the proposals are brought to fruition.

SEWER DITCHES.

Sewer ditches at Fakenham, Field Dalling, Helhoughton. West Raynham, Great Ryburgh, Sculthorpe, Stiffkey and Tatterford were thoroughly cleansed during the spring, and this represents a big improvement on what has been possible during the past two or three years.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

Fakenham—The usual careful overhaul of the pumping plant and machinery was made during the year, all necessary repairs and renewals being made. The engines and pumps worked a total of 2935 hours giving an average of 8 hours $2\frac{1}{2}$ minutes pumping per day. a very creditable state of affairs in view of the high total rainfall of 29.06 inches which caused much additional pumping.

Melton Constable—Towards the end of the year some trouble was experienced with the dosing syphons at this works, and the necessary spares were ordered. Reference has previously been made to the unsatisfactory nature of the effluent from this works, and it is of interest to note that the Consulting Engineers in their report do not think that the plant is worthy of being retained in the post-war scheme.

Pudding Norton—It is now possible to refer in more detail to the modern type sewage disposal works serving Prisoner of War Camp No. 82. The preliminary survey works were entirely carried out by this department while the layout and design are of the standard type prepared by the Ministry of Works designed to deal with 20,000 gallons of sewage per day.
When these works had been in operation some months it became obvious that they were overloaded and at the end of the year proposals were in hand for a 75% increase in the area of available sludge lagoons. Other extensions to the works will in all probability become essential.
Maintainance work is carried on by the Council who are reimbursed by the Ministry of Works. It is hoped that the works will ultimately be used in connection with a sewerage scheme for Hempton, Pudding Norton and possibly Fakenham.

Great Walsingham—In this case also it is now possible to refer to the new sewage disposal works serving North Creake Royal Air Force Station. The original proposal had been to have a sewage disposal works about one mile west of the present site, but following representations by the Council to the Air Ministry and the payment of £536 towards the additional costs incurred the works were moved to the present position where it is hoped they will form part of the Council's post-

war scheme for the parishes of Great Walsingham, Little Walsingham and Wighton.

The works are based upon the standard type drawings of the Air Ministry and the field survey was again carried out by this department which has been directly responsible for the maintenance of the works since October 1944, expenses being refunded by the Air Ministry. The effluent which is discharged into the River Stiffkey is very satisfactory.

Public Cleansing.

Removal of house refuse and night soil is carried out in the parishes of Fakenham, Little Walsingham, Great Walsingham, Blakeney, Stiffkey, Great Ryburgh and Hempton, whilst there is a collection of night soil only at Briston.

The scheme in Fakenham is carried on by direct labour, but the remaining schemes are all on a contract basis. Two Contracts were terminated during the year and each was renewed at increased cost.

Water.

With the exception of a mains supply in the Parishes of Fakenham and Hempton the majority of the district is served by shallow wells, a large proportion of which upon analysis show that the water is unfit for drinking and domestic purposes. The Council has retained a firm of Consulting Engineers who are at the present time examining the question of a district water supply scheme, preliminary report of which was presented to the Council in October 1944.

The threatening shortage of water during the year did not materialise owing to the quick recovery of the shallow wells after a heavy rainfall in the Autumn, but the mains supply at the water works, Holt Road, Fakenham, was having increasing difficulty in providing sufficient water to maintain local civilian requirements together with supplies to the P.O.W. Camp No. 82 and West Raynham R.A.F. Station.

The question of augmenting this supply is a matter of urgency and has already been referred to the Ministry of Health. A local inquiry is expected in the near future.

Regular bacteriological check samples are taken of the Fakenham and Hempton Supply and all these have been satisfactory. Results of a further chemical and bacteriological sample submitted to the Public Analyst are shown in the following table :—

Chemical Results (Grains per gallon)

Free and Saline ammonia	nil
Albuminoid ammonia	Trace
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.5
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.17
Nitrates	nil

HARDNESS.

Total Hardnes	22°

Bacteriological Results.

Bacteria per c.c. on agar at 37°C. ...	none
Bacillus Coli	Absent in 100 ml.
Physical Characteristics	Bright and clear.

"This is a pure and wholesome water, of great organic and bacteriological purity, and quite fit for drinking and all the purposes of a public supply."

This supply of water is chlorinated before being pumped into the high level reservoir.

The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

20 dwellings were connected to the main water supply.

There are 1052 dwellings in the Parishes of Fakenham and Hempton of which 876 are connected to the main water supply.

A total of 71 samples of water were taken during the year from 20 different sources of supply. These were made up as follows:—

Routine samples from public water supplies ...	46
Initial samples from private wells	19
Repeat samples from private wells	6
Sources of water supply found to be unsatisfactory...	16
Number of premises where an alternative supply was provided	20

A number of private wells were cleaned out during the year and repeat samples taken while in other cases temporary alternative supplies were arranged at wells serving adjoining premises.

Salvage.

The arrangements for the voluntary collection of salvage were continued during the year, whilst in Fakenham and Hempton the work was carried on by the Scavengers. Monthly collections from the various parish depots was also maintained.

The following table shows the materials dealt with during the year:—

Material	Received			Disposed of		
	tons.	cwts.	lbs.	tons.	cwts.	lbs.
Wastepaper (all grades)	56	11	6	76	15	2
Bones	3	9	74	5	15	0
Rags	1	16	3	4	14	37
Bottles and Jars	4	1	0	11	8	34
Miscellaneous Metals		1	61	2	18	36
String			18		14	21
Rubber	1	4	8	5	14	0
Sacks		5	9	1	10	103
Kitchen Waste (estimated)	18	0	0	18	0	0
Totals	85	8	67	127	10	9

Note: Where the stock disposed of is more than that shown as being received, the difference is accounted for by stocks previously held or by materials received at, but not actually weighed in to, the main salvage depot.

The income received during the year totalled £769 8s. 9d a reduction of £246 on the previous year. This amount was sufficient to keep the scheme self-supporting although the margin has now been reduced to small proportions. The usual payments have again been made to local charities.

Kitchen Waste is collection in the parish of Fakenham.

Civilian Deaths Scheme.

No call was made on this service during the year.

Surface Air Raid Shelters.

Regular weekly cleansing of these shelters has been carried on.

Government Evacuation Scheme.

Work under this scheme again became heavy during the summer months when there was a further evacuation of mothers and children from London. Previous experience of this work enabled advance preparations to be made and these were most helpful in dealing with the official parties.

30 Additional properties were requisitioned, but some were subsequently released, the total number remaining under requisition at the end of the year was 35. Five other properties were requisitioned and in use by persons inadequately housed.

British Restaurant, Fakenham.

The works of amendment and repair to the Old Lecture Hall, Quaker Lane, Fakenham were satisfactorily completed early in the year at a cost of £492 9s. 9d. and the British Restaurant was formally opened on the 31st January.

The Infestation Order, 1943.

Systematic inspection of properties in many parishes was made by the Council's rodent operator who carried out a programme of poisoning wherever possible. Liaison with the War Agricultural Committee which is responsible for similar infestation by rats and mice on agricultural properties proved difficult, and it became apparent that poisoning in rural areas is almost useless during the summer months.

Having regard to the difficulties encountered in dealing with infestation under the Ministry of Food Scheme, the entire matter was being reviewed by the Council at the end of the year in an endeavour to arrange service capable of covering all types of properties throughout the district.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

General licensing of premises was again permitted during the latter part of the year, and 37 premises were approved for this purpose. The storage capacity totalled 114,000 gallons and the fees received £34 2s. 11d.

Conclusion.

The marked deterioration in the condition of practically all dwellinghouses in this area continued during the year, and a great deal of work in this field is now outstanding. It is to be hoped that the settled policy of the Ministry of Health will be such that the repairs and reconditioning of dwellings and the provision of satisfactory alternative accommodation will be a class 1 priority.

Staffing difficulties generally have not caused such great trouble as in previous years but the continued absence of a qualified assistant Sanitary Inspector has seriously limited the amount of work done, so that only essential matters have received proper attention. (Mr. L. H. Doughty joined H.M. Forces in December).

The continued interest and co-operation of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee, The Clerk, The Medical Officer of Health, and other members of the staff, is much appreciated.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

H. E. GILBY,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.